REMARKS

In the office action mailed November 16, 2005, all claims were allowed except for claim 12. It was rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as identically shown in U. S. Patent No. 5,463,286 of D'Aleo et al.

The rejection found that "Lansing [sic, D'Aleo et al.] discloses an electrical ballast and dimming switch. . . ." Applicants traverse the finding that the reference shows or suggests an electrical ballast or ballast circuit. A review of the reference shows that the only discussion of ballast occurs at col. 2, line 30 where the reference discusses drawbacks of prior art systems.

D'Aleo et al. is otherwise silent about ballasts and ballast circuits. In contrast, claim 12 calls for a first board for holding a ballast circuit and a second board for holding power semiconductors. The rejection identifies elements 10 and 14 of the reference as the first and second boards. In other words, element 10 is identified as the board that holds the ballast circuit and element 14 as the board that holds the power semiconductors.

But D'Aleo element 10 is not a board that holds a ballast circuit. Instead element 10 is the master control module. Moreover, element 14 is not a board for holding power semiconductor devices. Instead, it is a display panel.

In the detailed specification D'Aleo mentions semiconductors and fluorescent lighting only once. See col. 14, lines 13-26:

> As noted above the **dimmer circuit 418** can be any **conventional** dimmer circuit for the control of incandescent, low voltage **incandescent or fluorescent** lighting, or other types of loads. The exact nature of triac drive circuit 412 and dimmer circuit 418 will depend in conventional manner on the type of load being controlled. For some types of loads, for example, electronic low voltage transformers, dimmer circuit 418 may not even include a triac but instead may include other types of semiconductor devices. In this case triac drive circuit 412 is replaced with the appropriate drive circuitry for the type of dimmer circuit being used. Further, the loads need not be dimmed but instead can be controlled in an on or off manner. In this case, triac drive circuit 412 and dimmer circuit 418 are not required.

Thus, the detailed description of D'Aleo contradicts the finding in the office action. D'Aleo does not disclose an electronic ballast circuit. The fluorescent dimmers appears to be included in D'Aleo's discussion of dimmer circuits. Conventional fluorescent dimmers use

magnetic ballasts, such as those referred to in col. 2, line 30 of D'Aleo. As such, the reference make no mention of the electronic ballast that is part of claim 12.

Having thus distinguished claim 12 from the art of record, Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of that claim along with allowed claims 1-11, 13 and 14.

Respectfully submitted,

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